



RECRUITING SPECIAL

If you are reading this you are almost certainly already a member - but inside we have some recruiting ideas you might want to try and help boost our numbers.

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It is with great sadness that we report the death of Branch Member
Michael (Paddy) Payne
May he rest in peace

Reunion - 5 Communications Coy (Volunteers) and Joint Service Signals Unit (Volunteers)

On Saturday 1st April (yes, I know!), former members of 5 Communications Coy (Volunteers) and Joint Service Signals Unit (Volunteers) will gather at the Lansdown Pub in Cheltenham for their inaugural re-union. Around 40 ex-members are expected to attend this rolling event which will take place from 1.00pm to 11.00pm with people popping in and out as they choose. At one time it was the case that the Unit's Annual Dinner held in October each year served as the meeting point; those that had served with the Volunteers being invited back for the dinner. As a result of the Unit's success and its consequent increase in size, coupled with ever diminishing facilities and increase in costs, it became impossible to host ex-members at the Annual Dinner. So, the idea of a separate get-together was born which will possibly develop into a formal dinner every second year or so. If you are an ex-member of either unit and didn't receive notification of the event and are interested, please contact Chris Lowish:

YServices.Secretary@rbl.community or if you can, pop along to the Lansdown on April Fools Day (not an April Fools prank by the way).

Chris Lowish (Branch Secretary)

Recruiting Opportunity

The 5 Coy/JSSU, Cheltenham based, inaugural reunion provides an opportunity to regale all those attending with details of our Branch and how they can join. Branch Standard bearer, Dave Lawrence will be on hand distributing new Branch leaflets from our recruiting table with the Branch Standard on parade as a focal point. A report on how successful this attempt at recruiting new members was, in the next issue.



The Lansdown Pub, Cheltenham

Recruiting - Pass the word



Our membership numbers have held steady for some time at around 440. Members departing the Branch, for whatever reason, are usually replaced with a trickle of new members primarily from our presence on Facebook. We also rely on members to point anyone interested in joining our Branch to telephone 0800 307 7773, for the quickest and easiest way to join. Face to face recruitment has proven to be the most rewarding approach and every member can play the role of recruiting sergeant and help

increase our membership. Here are a few words to answer the questions often asked by potential members.

What do we do?

- We raise funds for the Poppy Appeal (the Legion's main source of income), year round.
- We raise funds to maintain the Y Services Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.
- We provide help and support for the bereaved and those in need.
- We take part in the Remembrance Sunday Service at Old Woodhouse in Leicestershire.
- We meet in person at our annual, sociable, Summer Gathering.

When was the Branch formed?

The Y Services Branch was formed in August 1997 by 5 Company (Volunteers). It is a national branch meaning it is not associated with a particular geographic area but rather has members with a common interest, in our case service in or association with the Y Services Organisation (SIGINT, ELINT, COMINT, EW etc) from all branches of the armed forces and their close family members.

It is also helpful to note that:

By becoming a member, your membership fee immediately contributes to the Legion's work and you can be involved as little or as much as you wish.

Fundraising The London Marathon Gill Bennett



Gill Bennett - The Story so Far

Hi Everyone - By now all you members of the Y Services Branch of the RBL and all those of you who are members of the RBL Y Services Facebook Group will be aware of what an absolute star Gill Bennett is when it comes to fundraising.

Gill's latest project is to run the London Marathon on 23 April to raise money for the Poppy Appeal. If you follow the link below you will, as if by magic, be taken to her fundraising page where you might be just a little disappointed to see that with less than a month to go a modest **£649*** has thus far been pledged and that by a mere 32 supporters.

*As at 29 March 2023

Now the Legion Branch has a membership of approximately 440 and a considerable number of non-Legion members support the FB page, so I am sure we can do better than that, folks.

Please take a trip to Gill's fundraising page and consider making a donation - however small. If you do that, you will be able to lie in bed on the morning of 23 April, smug in the knowledge that you too are supporting Gill and raising money for the Poppy Appeal.

<https://2023tcsllondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/gill-bennett/post/2640492>

You know it makes sense !!

Dennis Weir (Branch Vice Chairman and Poppy Appeal Organiser)

easyfundraising.org.uk

March 2023 Update

Purchases large and small all attract a donation from vendors in the easyfundraising scheme. Big ticket items like holidays attract big donations but regular small purchases are also important. **Thank you one and all for your contributions**



The REALLY easy and painless way to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal all year round

When you use easyfundraising every time you shop online with the thousands of brands in the scheme, they will donate to our Branch. This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying.

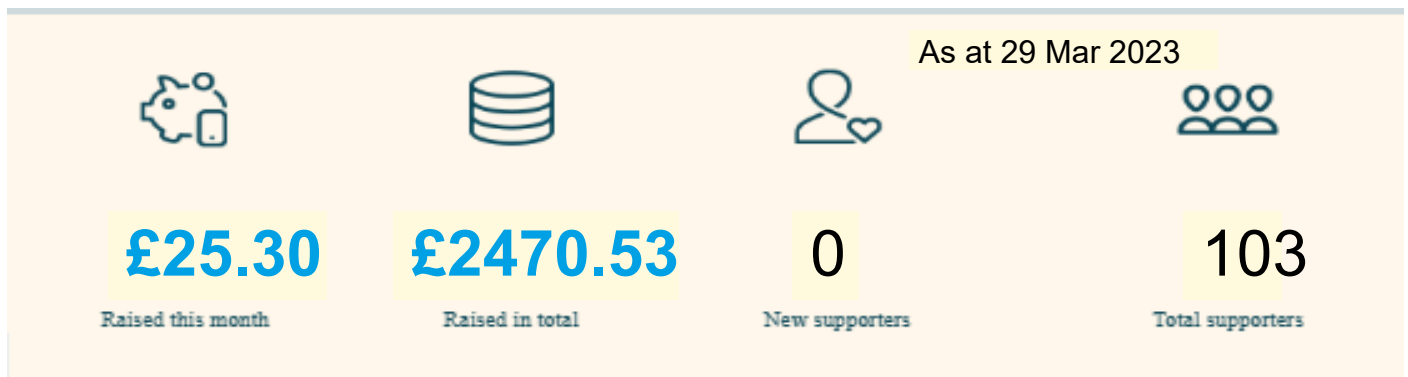
If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started!

You can find our easyfundraising page here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rblyservices/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=rm-en-e2

Booking your summer hols? Book via easyfundraising and raise big bucks for the Poppy Appeal.

FUNDS RAISED UPDATE



Chairman's Message

Dear Members,

Now that the clocks have sprung forward taking us into British Summer Time we begin what is usually a busy few months for the Branch committee. The Legion Conference is in May 2023 in Torquay and we will be briefing our delegates on conference motions.

The expected good weather means we can hopefully find a nice warm day to get the virtual visitors book QR code signage installed at the Y Services Memorial at the NMA.

Several members will be attending the 5 Company/JSSU reunion in Cheltenham on April 1 and we hope to recruit new members to the RBL and in particular to our Branch.

This issue has highlighted recruiting and it would be great if members could slip in a mention of our Y Services Branch when meeting up with old comrades from the ships, regiments and aircraft, dets, troops and lewts in which we served.

Regards to one and all.

Jim McDermott. Branch Chairman

Editor's Note:

Contributions to the monthly Branch Newsletter are always welcome on any topics members think will be of general interest.

We aim to provide uplifting stories as well as Branch news and attempt not to duplicate messages already sent from RBL HQ.

Copy should be sent by email. to the editor Jim McDermott at

jim.mcdermott77@ntlworld.com

Preferred format is unformatted MS Word and any photos, cartoons or pictures should be submitted separately as JPEGs.



Can you help recruit new members from your friends with a background in the Y Services community?

See page 3 for carefully chosen words to encourage people to sign up.

**A warm
Y Services Branch
welcome to
Sheila Sarsfield**

More culture from
our very own
Branch Poet, John
Berry (aka Jobe)

Party Poop!

(An E-mail intercept?)

The office of 10 Downing Street requests your company for drinkie-poohs and nibbles in the garden, ten past three! Of course, it's not a **party** in the true sense of the word..... we do enjoy a working lunch, unlike the common herd.

The plan is quite a simple one, befitting our main guest who'll come to give a rousing speech (This at his **own** request!) That Cummings chap will **not** be there, he's far too busy blogging! Matt Hancock's said he'll come and take a welcome break from snogging.

You're asked, when you attend this **party** (which, of course it ain't!) not to show enjoyment, but commendable restraint.

That is to say, resist the urge to get up dancing, twerking, so **when** our images are leaked, the press will think we're working.

As far as eats and drinks go, it is strictly B Y O.

In other words, participants bring snacks and booze "to go".

Although we much prefer it, we don't mind if you've no wine and though we don't like foreign beer, Corona sounds just fine!

Remember this, team! We're the ones who've written all the rules, so please don't let the public think we're taking them for fools.

We **must** keep social distance (-ish!) so nibbles must be thrown.

Just flick your snacks to anyone outside the 2-yard zone.

For spice with sausages on sticks we've different kinds, of course, but please display some loyalty - a squirt of **HP** sauce!

The drinks we'll serve from water pistols, everyone likes shots!

Gin and tonic, Bolly, Châteauneuf du Pape (in tots!)

Remember, it's not public knowledge, keep it under wraps

and **do** be careful what you do with all your happy snaps!

'Cos if the BBC get wind, their Rottweiler-in-Chief

(Miss Doomsberg) will be unleashed, and for certain, give us grief!

Our press release! This ought to throw those people off the scent for whom a whiff of partying's a criminal event:

"This afternoon the PM joined his civil service team to thank them as he joined them..... eating jelly and ice cream!"